



Vol. 525 Rs. 25

Tales of Arjuna



Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India

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Tales of Arjuna

Arjuna was as devoted to Krishna as Hanuman was to Rama. Our first story, which is based on a folktale popular in South India, is about the encounter between Arjuna and Hanuman both of whom come to realise that Rama and Krishna are one and the same.

Arjuna was trained by Drona, the master of archery, and he acquired powerful weapons by propitiating the gods. But the weapon that made him invincible was his mighty bow, Gandiva, which he obtained from Agni.

Arjuna and his cousin, Krishna, were inseparable, and it was to Krishna that he always turned for guidance. In the battle of Kurukshetra, Krishna acted as Arjuna's charioteer.

There were, however, occasions when Arjuna became vain and boastful. The third story shows how Krishna gently, but firmly, corrected Arjuna on such occasions.

AMAR CHITRA KATHA means good reading.
Over 78 million copies sold so far.

Script: Lopamudra

Artworks: C.M. Vitankar

Editor : Anant Pai

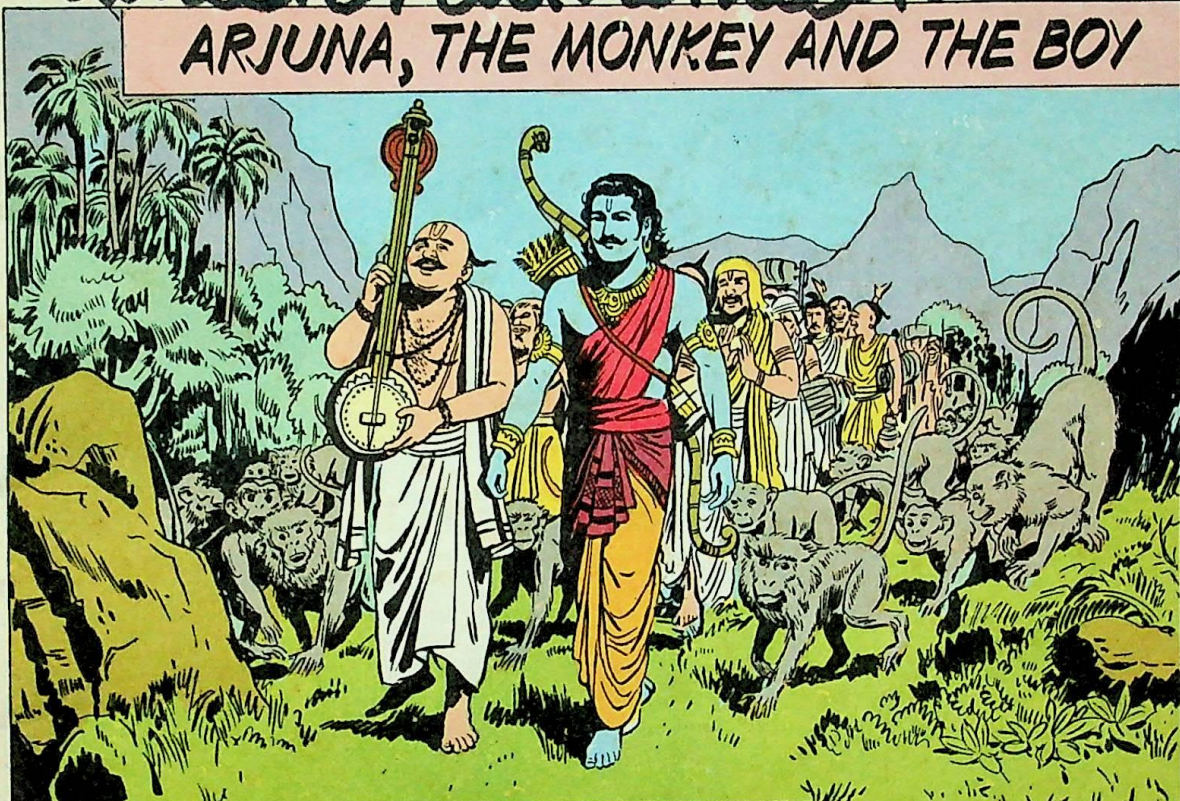
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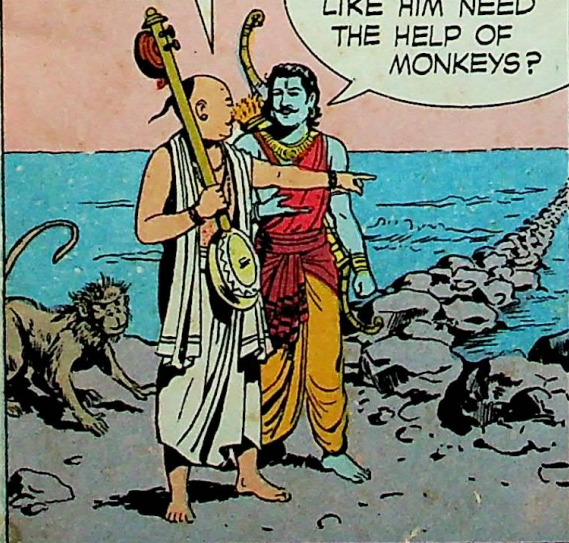
ARJUNA, THE MONKEY AND THE BOY



ONCE, WHILE ARJUNA WAS ON A PILGRIMAGE TO VARIOUS HOLY PLACES, HE CAME TO RAMESWARAM.*

AND THAT IS THE BRIDGE RAMA BUILT WITH THE HELP OF THE MONKEYS.

MONKEYS? BUT WHY DID A GREAT ARCHER LIKE HIM NEED THE HELP OF MONKEYS?



HE COULD HAVE BUILT A BRIDGE OF ARROWS! WHY DIDN'T HE?



* IN COASTAL TAMIL NADU

THE BRAHMAN WENT HIS WAY BUT.
A MONKEY, WHICH WAS FOLLOWING
ARJUNA, BURST OUT LAUGHING.



HA! HA! HO!
HO! HA!

SURPRISED, ARJUNA TURNED ROUND —



A BRIDGE OF ARROWS
WOULD HAVE COLLAPSED
UNDER THE WEIGHT
OF THE MONKEYS!

ARJUNA WAS A LITTLE ANNOYED BY THE MONKEY'S AUDACITY.

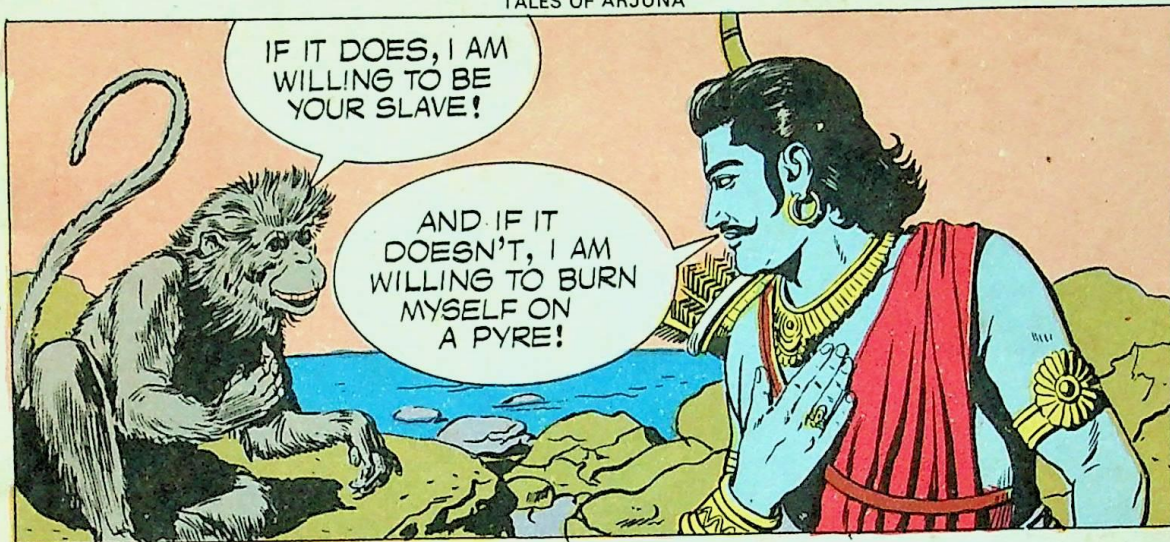
MERE MONKEYS COULD
BREAK A BRIDGE OF
MIGHTY RAMA'S ARROWS!
IMPOSSIBLE! WHY, NO
MONKEY COULD CRUSH A
BRIDGE OF EVEN MY
ARROWS!



I CHALLENGE THAT!
A BRIDGE MADE WITH
YOUR ARROWS WON'T
WITHSTAND EVEN MY
WEIGHT, PUNY
AS I AM.



TALES OF ARJUNA



SO ARJUNA SET TO WORK AND BEGAN TO BRIDGE THE WATERS BETWEEN LANKA AND THE MAINLAND WITH A SHOWER OF ARROWS.

WITH THE QUIVER OF INEXHAUSTIBLE ARROWS THAT LORD AGNI, THE GOD OF FIRE, GAVE ME, I SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM IN BUILDING A STRONG BRIDGE.

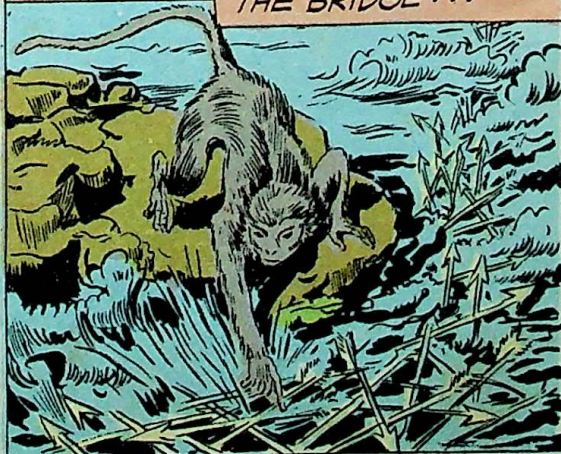


AS SOON AS THE BRIDGE WAS READY—

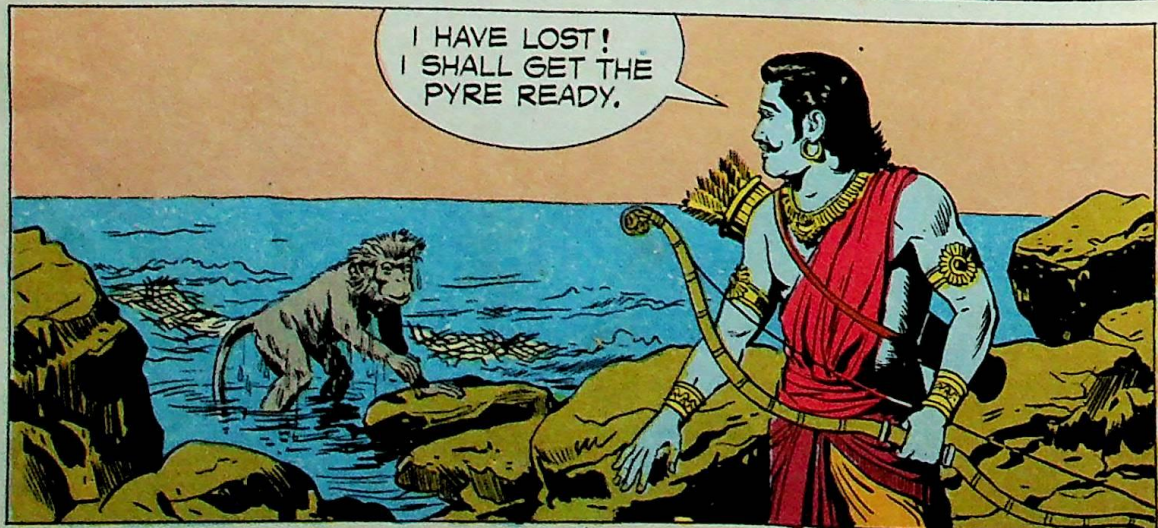
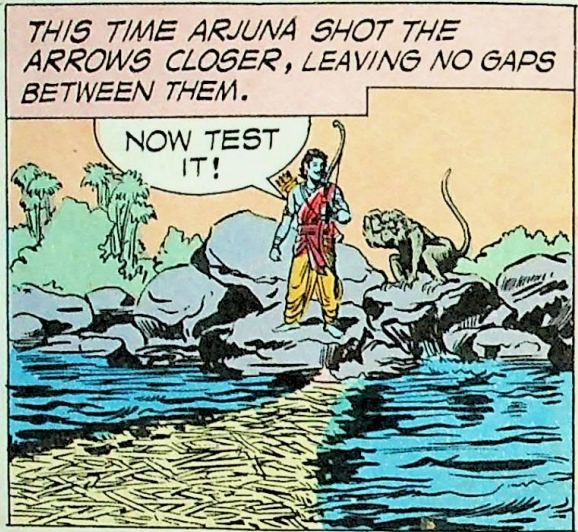
THERE! YOU CAN TEST IT.



THE MONKEY HAD BARELY TOUCHED THE BRIDGE...

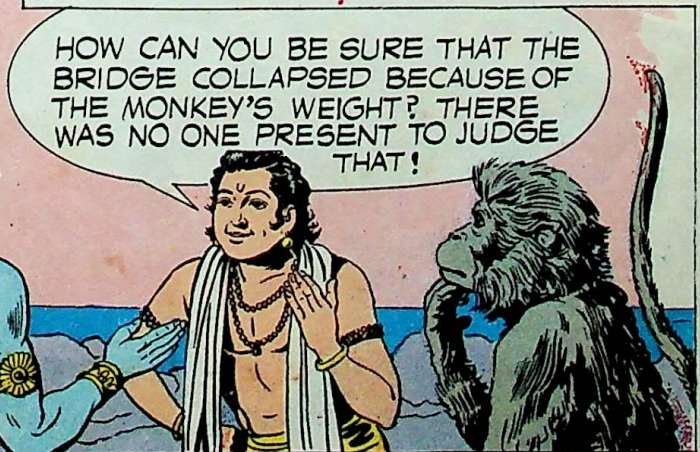
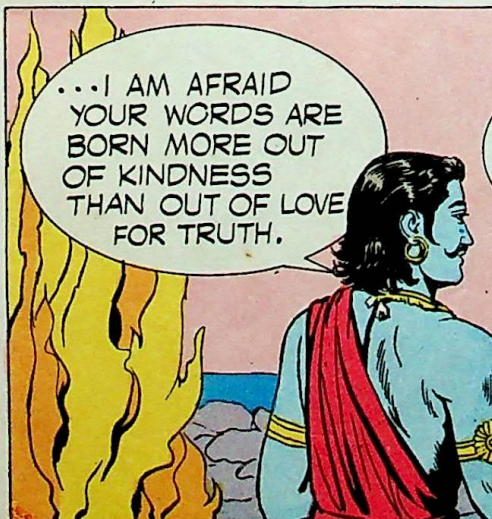
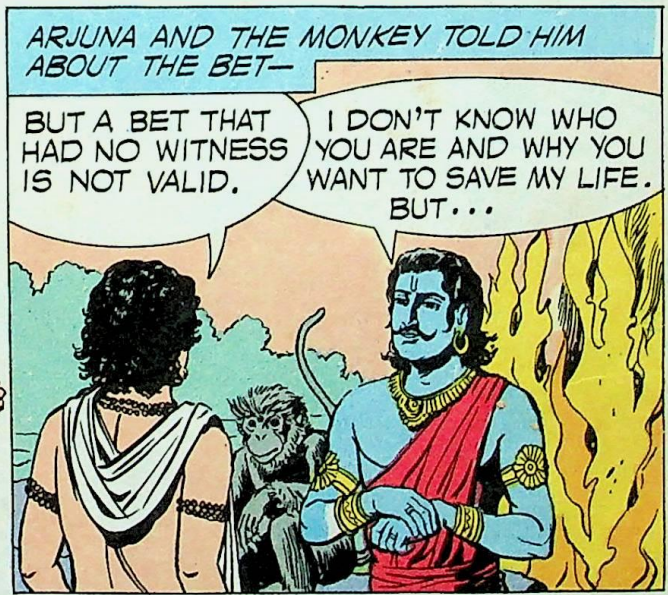


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TALES OF ARJUNA

THE PYRE WAS MADE AND ARJUNA WAS ABOUT TO JUMP INTO THE FLAMES—



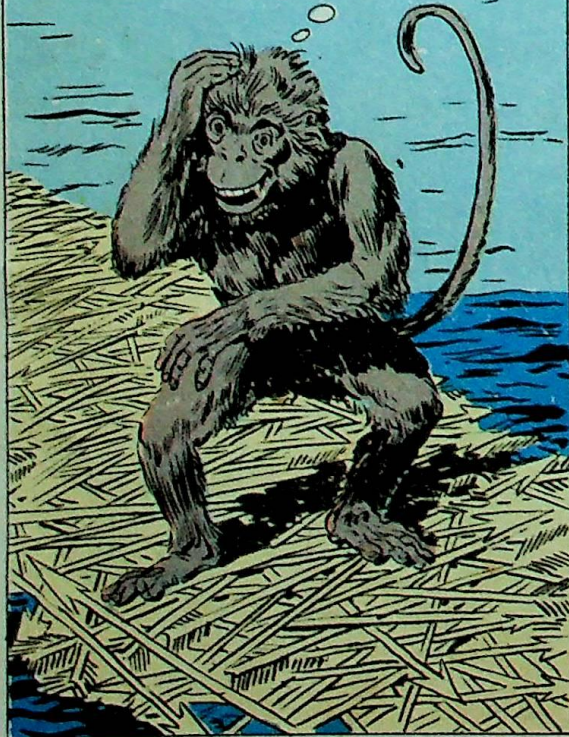
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WHY DON'T YOU TWO
COMPETE AGAIN
AND LET ME BE THE
JUDGE?

THAT'S A
BETTER
SUGGESTION.



I'LL TAKE ON THE FORM
I TOOK WHEN I LEAPT ACROSS
THE OCEAN IN SEARCH OF
SITA.



AS SOON AS THE BRIDGE WAS READY,
THE MONKEY BEGAN WALKING ACROSS
IT.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
MY STRENGTH IS LEAVING
ME! I FEEL WEAK!



THE MONKEY MADE HIMSELF AS
LARGE AS A MOUNTAIN...



TALES OF ARJUNA

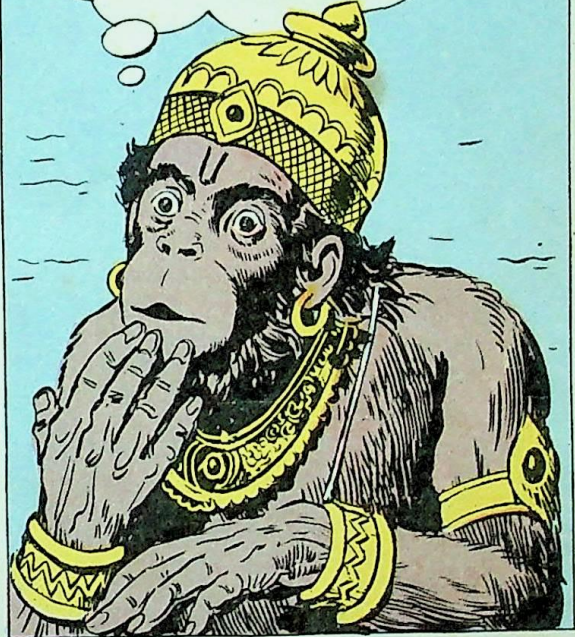
... AND JUMPED UP AND DOWN ON THE BRIDGE.

WHAT! THE BRIDGE STILL STANDS! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! ONLY KRISHNA... WHY, OF COURSE THE BOY IS KRISHNA!



AT THE SAME MOMENT, THE MONKEY, TOO, REALISED THE TRUTH.

WHAT A VAIN FOOL I HAVE BEEN. OF COURSE IT IS THE LORD HIMSELF!



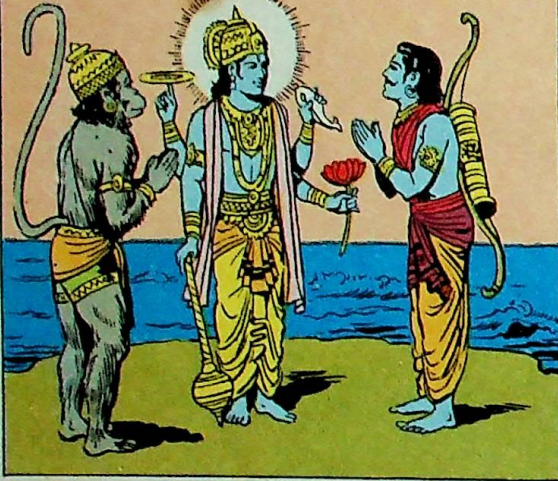
RAMA!

KRISHNA!

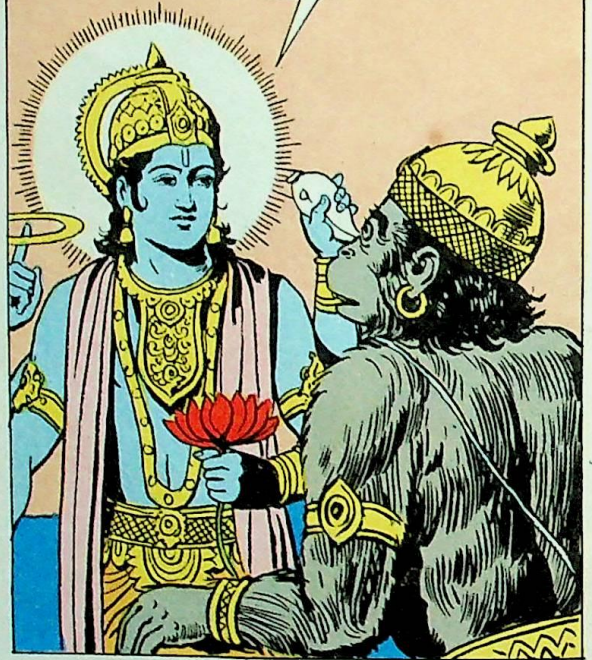


AND LO! IN THE PLACE OF THE
BOY STOOD LORD VISHNU.

YES IT IS !! BOTH
OF YOU NEEDED
TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON
IN HUMILITY. YOU, ARJUNA,
WERE TOO VAIN.



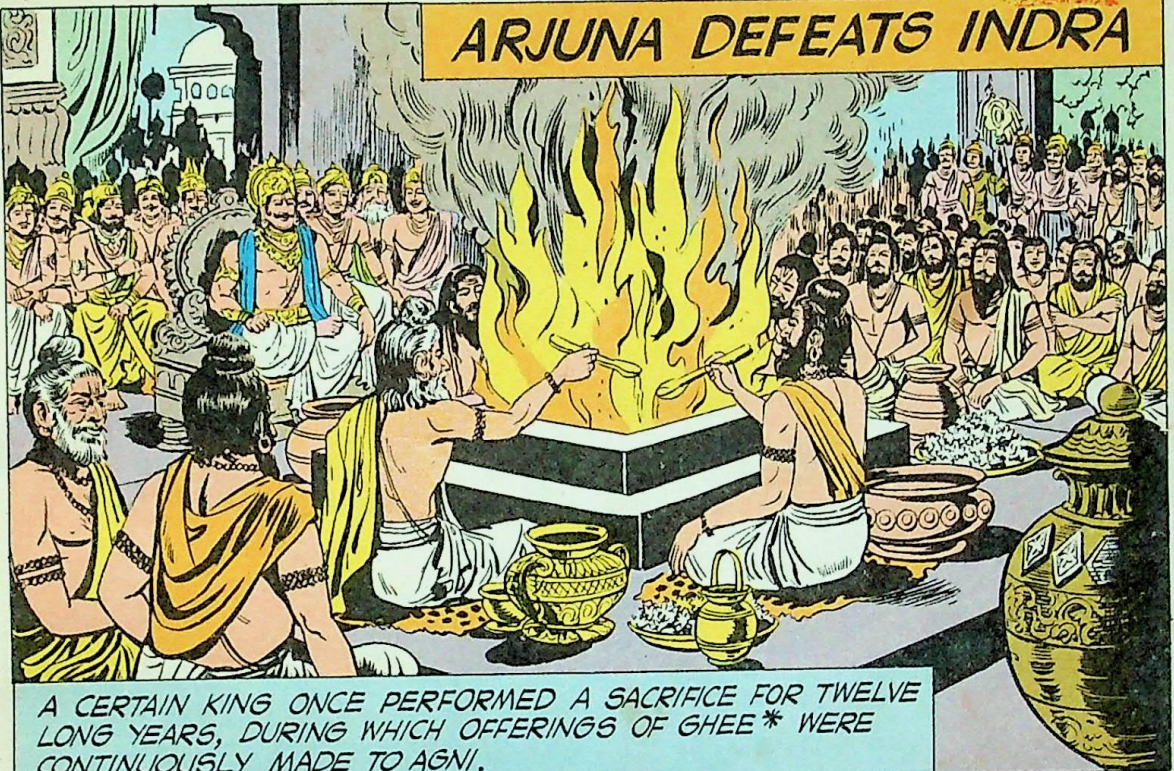
AND YOU, HANUMAN,
WERE TOO PROUD OF
YOUR STRENGTH.



HANUMAN, TO
FULFIL THE CONDITIONS
OF YOUR WAGER YOU
SHALL BE ON
ARJUNA'S
FLAG.



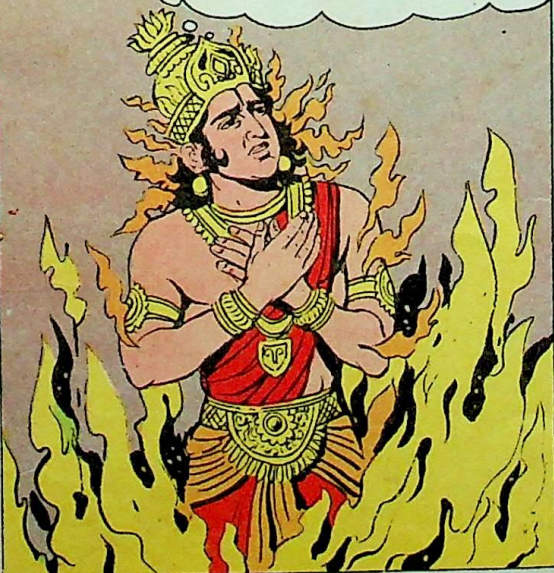
TALES OF ARJUNA

ARJUNA DEFEATS INDRA

A CERTAIN KING ONCE PERFORMED A SACRIFICE FOR TWELVE LONG YEARS, DURING WHICH OFFERINGS OF GHEE* WERE CONTINUOUSLY MADE TO AGNI.

WHEN AT LAST THE SACRIFICE WAS COMPLETED, AGNI WAS PERTURBED.

WHY DO I FEEL SO DULL AND WEAK? WHY AM I SO PALE? WHY DON'T I SHINE AS I DID BEFORE?



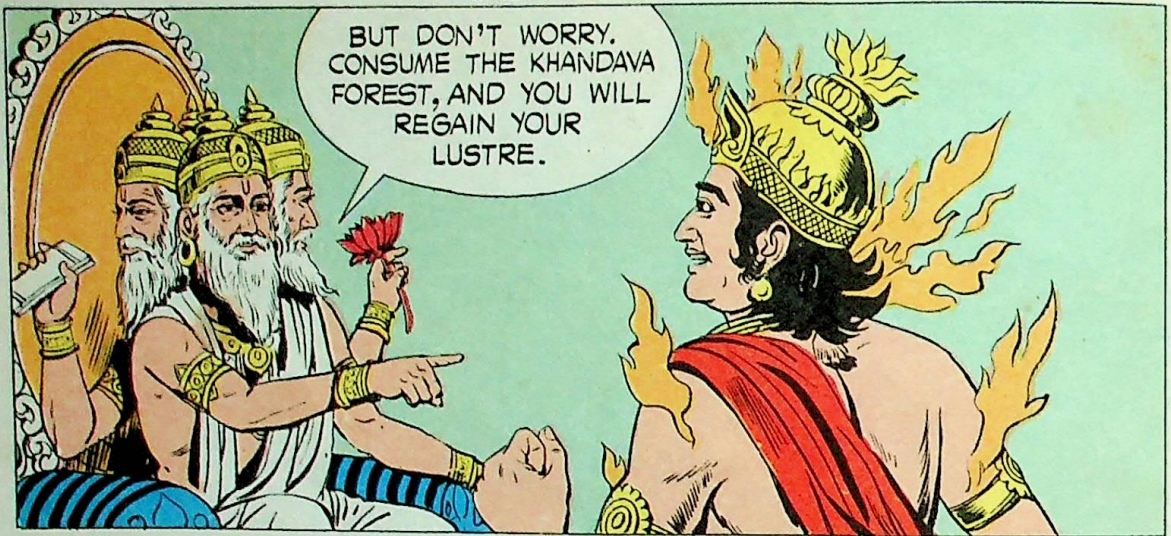
* CLARIFIED BUTTER

HE WENT TO THE ABODE OF BRAHMA.

O LORD, WHAT SHOULD I DO TO REGAIN MY LOST SPLENDOUR AND STRENGTH?



ALL THE GHEE YOU HAVE HAD FOR SO MANY YEARS HAS MADE YOU ILL.



AGNI HASTENED TO THE KHANDAVA
FOREST AND BEGAN TO BLAZE, MUCH
TO THE DISMAY OF INDRA.



SO INDRA SENT DOWN HEAVY
SHOWERS.



TALES OF ARJUNA

AGNI WENT BACK TO BRAHMA.

LORD, INDRA IS
BENT ON THWARTING
ME! WHAT SHOULD
I DO?

THERE ARE ONLY TWO PERSONS WHO
CAN HELP YOU: THE VALIANT HEROES,
ARJUNA AND KRISHNA. GO TO THEM.
THEY ARE NOW NEAR THE
KHANDAVA FOREST.



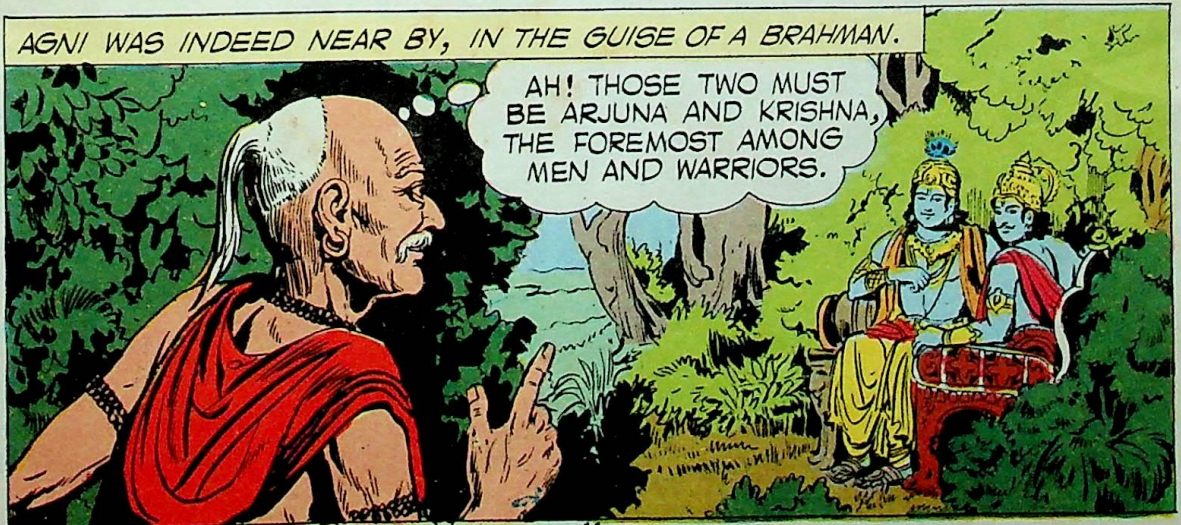
AT THAT MOMENT, ARJUNA AND KRISHNA WERE RELAXING ON THE BANK OF
THE YAMUNA.

THIS HAS BEEN AN UN-
USUALLY HOT SUMMER. I FEEL
AS IF I AM BEING SCORCHED
BY AGNI!

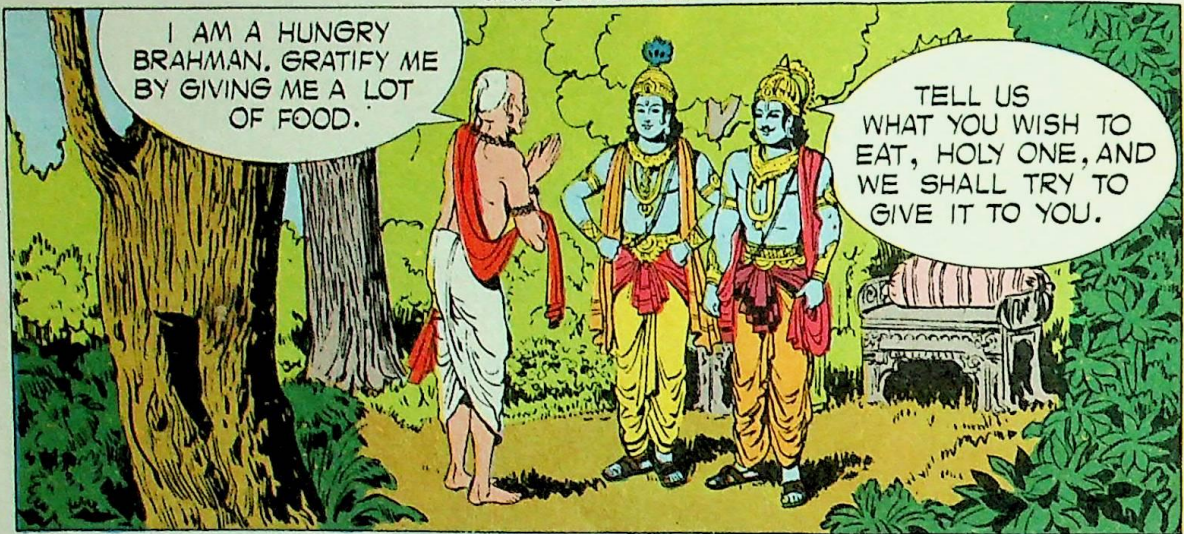


AGNI WAS INDEED NEAR BY, IN THE GUISE OF A BRAHMAN.

AH! THOSE TWO MUST
BE ARJUNA AND KRISHNA,
THE FOREMOST AMONG
MEN AND WARRIORS.



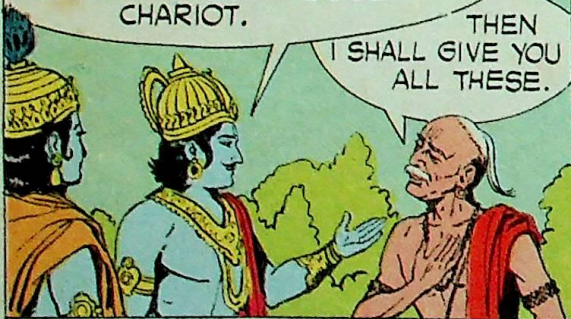
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AGNI TOLD THEM WHO HE WAS AND WHY HE HAD COME TO THEM —

WE CAN TACKLE MANY INDRAS. BUT WE DO NOT HAVE THE WEAPONS TO MATCH OUR SKILL AND SPEED. WE ALSO NEED A GOOD CHARIOT.

THEN I SHALL GIVE YOU ALL THESE.



AGNI CLOSED HIS EYES AND THOUGHT OF VARUNA.

O VARUNA, BRING THE GANDIVA BOW, WITH ITS INEXHAUSTIBLE QUIVERS, FOR ARJUNA. BRING FOR HIM ALSO A CHARIOT; AND FOR KRISHNA, THE SUDARSHANA DISCUS.



IN A FLASH, VARUNA PLACED ALL THE WEAPONS AND THE CHARIOT BEFORE HIM.

ALL THIS IS YOURS.

O AGNI! WITH THESE WEAPONS NO ONE CAN WITHSTAND US. NOW EAT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE! SURROUND THE FOREST WITH FIRE.



TALES OF ARJUNA

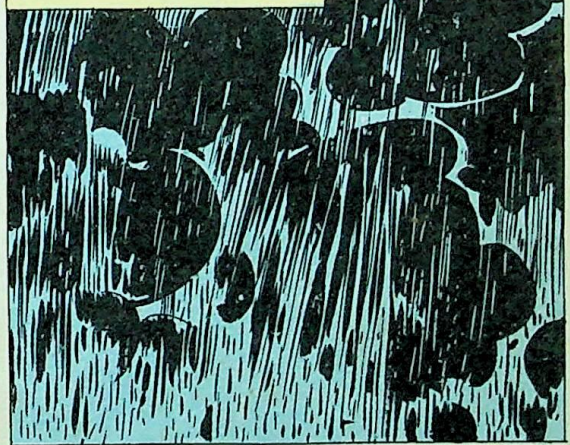
URGED ON BY THEM, AGNI CHANGED HIS FORM. HE THEN BROKE OUT INTO SEVEN FLAMES AND SURROUNDED THE FOREST, SETTING IT ABLAZE ON ALL SIDES. AS THE FLAMES ROSE HIGH, KRISHNA TURNED TO ARJUNA.



AS THEY POSTED THEMSELVES ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE FOREST, THE SKIES SUDDENLY DARKENED.



THE NEXT MOMENT THE RAIN CAME DOWN IN TORRENTS.



THE FOREST, CHOKED WITH SMOKE AND STRUCK BY LIGHTNING, WAS FEARFUL TO LOOK AT.



ARJUNA STOPPED THE SHOWER WITH A SHOWER OF HIS OWN...



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... TILL THE FOREST WAS COVERED WITH A CANOPY OF ARROWS.



BUT, THE NEXT MOMENT,
INDRA RAISED A
VIOLENT GALE...



... THAT HIT ARJUNA.



TALES OF ARJUNA

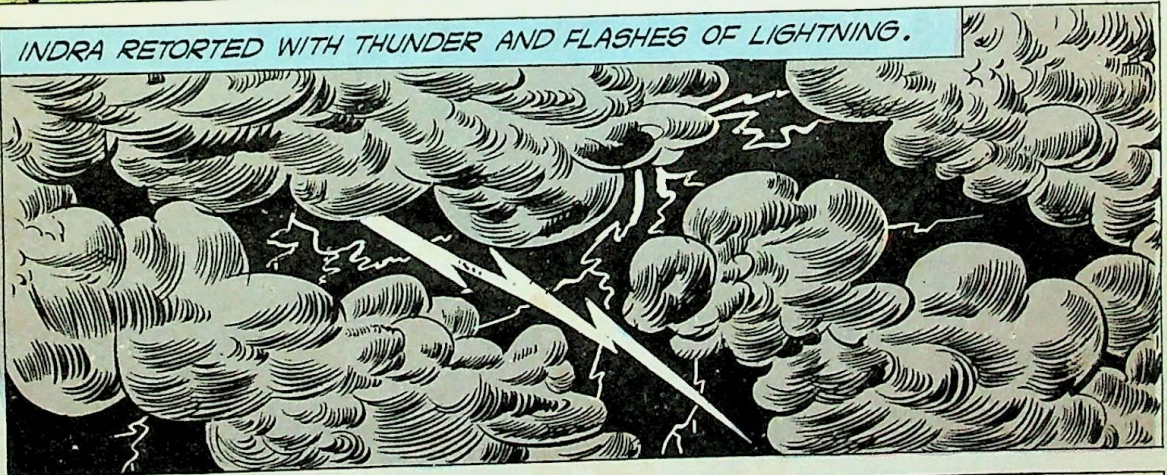
WHEN ARJUNA REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS HE WAS FURIOUS.

I WILL NOT REST TILL I'VE VANQUISHED YOU, O KING OF THE DEVAS!

AND HE BEGAN TO AIM HIS ARROWS AT INDRA IN THE SKIES.



INDRA RETORTED WITH THUNDER AND FLASHES OF LIGHTNING.



SUDDENLY ALL WAS QUIET —

THE ENERGY HAS GONE OUT OF MY THUNDER!



THE WIND HAS BLOWN AWAY ALL THE CLOUDS. ARJUNA HAS USED THE VAYAVYA WEAPON AGAINST ME!



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THE NEXT MOMENT THE SKY WAS CLEAR. THE SUN SHONE BRIGHTLY AND A COOL BREEZE FANNED AGNI AS HE BLAZED AFRESH. SUDDENLY —



AND LOOK! ON THE OTHER SIDE THE ASURAS AND NAGAS ARE CHARGING FORWARD!



... AND I'LL DEAL WITH THE ASURAS AND NAGAS.



KRISHNA SENT HIS DISCUS FLYING THROUGH THE AIR, AND THE NAGAS AND ASURAS FLED IN TERROR. MEANWHILE, ARJUNA COUNTERED THE ATTACK OF THE DEVAS SO SKILFULLY...



TALES OF ARJUNA

... THAT THEY RETREATED IN PANIC. INDRA COULD NOT HELP ADMIRING ARJUNA.

MY DEVAS ARE TURNING AWAY IN FEAR! ARJUNA HAS SURPASSED HIMSELF.



BUT, ALL THE SAME, HE SENT DOWN A SHOWER OF STONES.

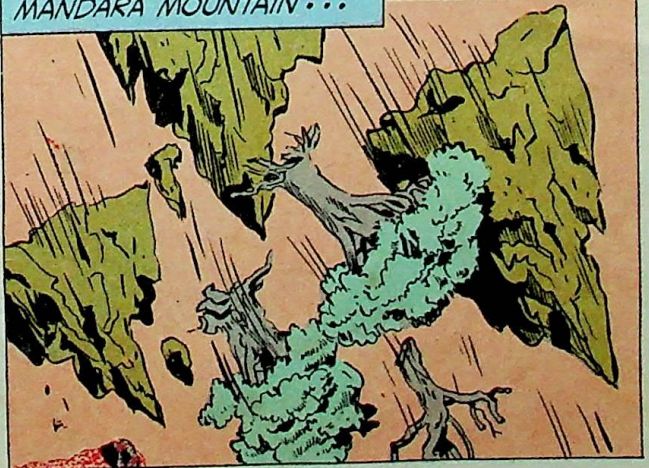
LET ME SEE THE EXTENT OF YOUR MIGHT.



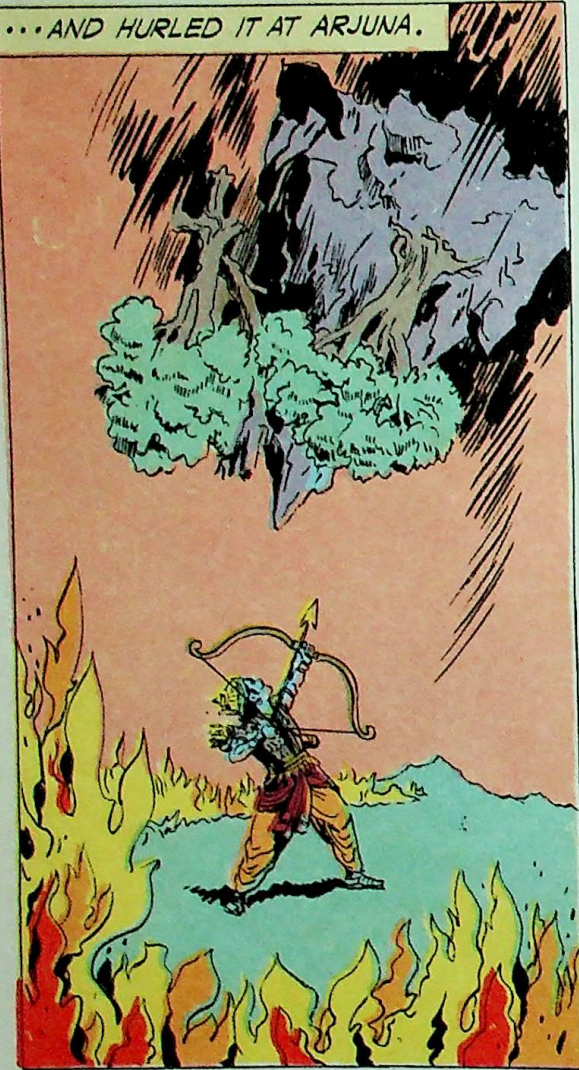
BUT ARJUNA QUICKLY WARDED OFF THE SHOWER WITH HIS ARROWS.



INDRA THEN TORE UP THE PEAK OF THE MANDARA MOUNTAIN...



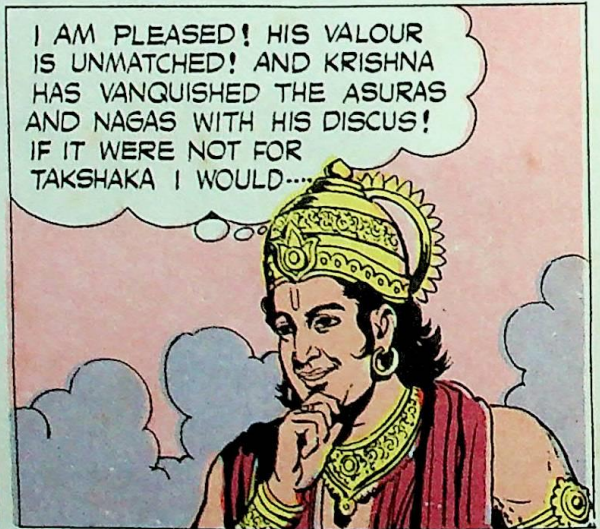
...AND HURLED IT AT ARJUNA.



BUT ARJUNA SMASHED IT WITH HIS ARROWS.



I AM PLEASED! HIS VALOUR IS UNMATCHED! AND KRISHNA HAS VANQUISHED THE ASURAS AND NAGAS WITH HIS DISCUS! IF IT WERE NOT FOR TAKSHAKA I WOULD....



AT THAT MOMENT A VOICE ECHOED FROM THE HEAVENS.

YOUR FRIEND, TAKSHAKA, IS SAFE. WHEN THE FIRE BROKE OUT, HE WAS AT KURUKSHETRA, O INDRA! NO ONE CAN DEFEAT ARJUNA AND KRISHNA. AND THE DESTRUCTION OF KHANDAVA HAS BEEN ORDAINED BY FATE. SO GIVE UP THE FIGHT.

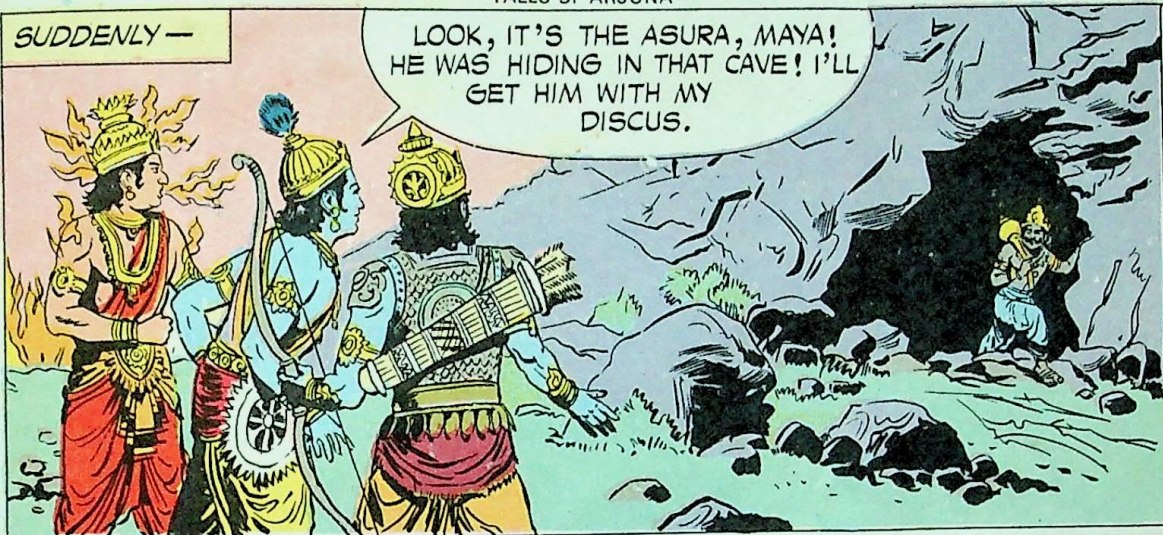
AS THEY SAW INDRA RETREATING, ARJUNA AND KRISHNA LEAPT FOR JOY.



TALES OF ARJUNA

SUDDENLY —

LOOK, IT'S THE ASURA, MAYA!
HE WAS HIDING IN THAT CAVE! I'LL
GET HIM WITH MY
DISCUS.



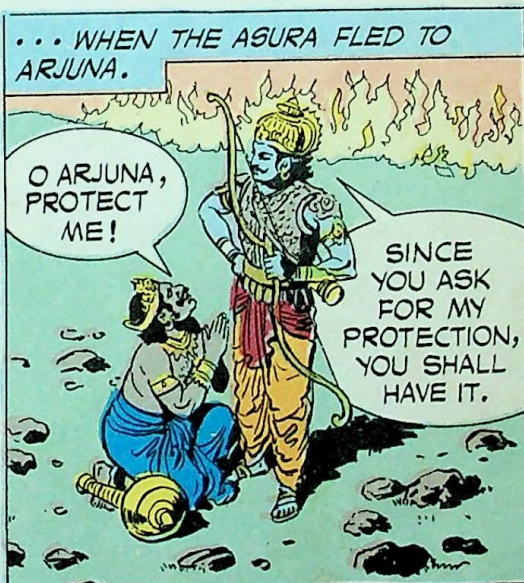
BUT HE HAD BARELY
RAISED HIS DISCUS...



... WHEN THE ASURA FLED TO
ARJUNA.

O ARJUNA,
PROTECT
ME!

SINCE
YOU ASK
FOR MY
PROTECTION,
YOU SHALL
HAVE IT.



ARJUNA HAS
GIVEN HIS WORD.
LEAVE HIM
ALONE, AGNI.



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WHEN QUIET WAS RESTORED, AGNI BLAZED FORTH FOR FIFTEEN DAYS TILL HE REGAINED HIS LOST LUSTRE.



INDRA THEN
CAME DOWN—



FOR YOUR VALOUR
AND MIGHT, YOU DESERVE
A BOON EACH. ASK FOR
ONE THAT IS NOT
AVAILABLE TO
MEN.

BESTOW ALL THE
WEAPONS ON ME
WITH THE KNOW-
LEDGE OF HOW TO
USE THEM.

MAY MY FRIENDSHIP
WITH ARJUNA LAST
FOR EVER.



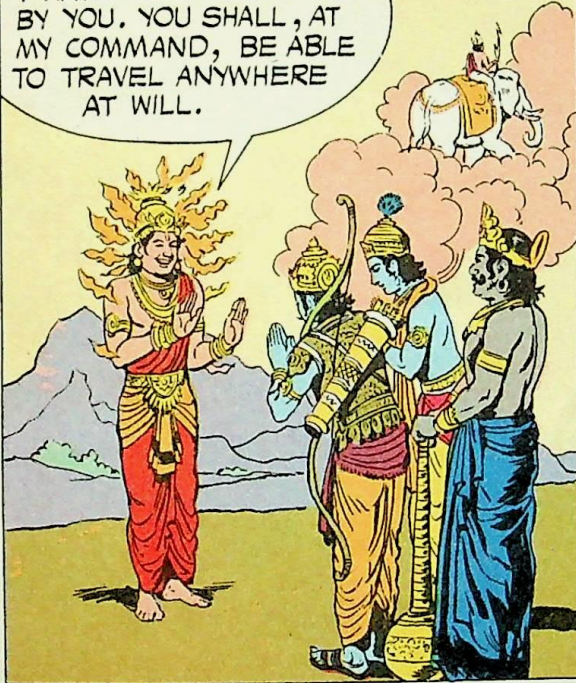
SO BE IT, KRISHNA. AND YOU
ARJUNA, SHALL RECEIVE THE
WEAPONS WHEN YOU NEED
THEM MOST.



TALES OF ARJUNA

AS INDRA WENT AWAY, IT WAS AGNI'S
TURN TO BESTOW A REWARD—

I HAVE BEEN GRATIFIED
BY YOU. YOU SHALL, AT
MY COMMAND, BE ABLE
TO TRAVEL ANYWHERE
AT WILL.



WHEN AGNI LEFT, ARJUNA, KRISHNA
AND MAYA RELAXED ON THE BANK OF
A RIVER.

O ARJUNA, YOU PRO-
TECTED ME FROM THE
WRATH OF KRISHNA AND
AGNI. TELL ME WHAT
I CAN DO FOR YOU.

BE EVER
WELL - DIS-
POSED TO US,
MAYA, AS WE
ARE TO YOU.



BUT I MUST DO
SOMETHING
FOR YOU.

WELL, KRISHNA,
WHAT CAN WE
ASK OF OUR
FRIEND?

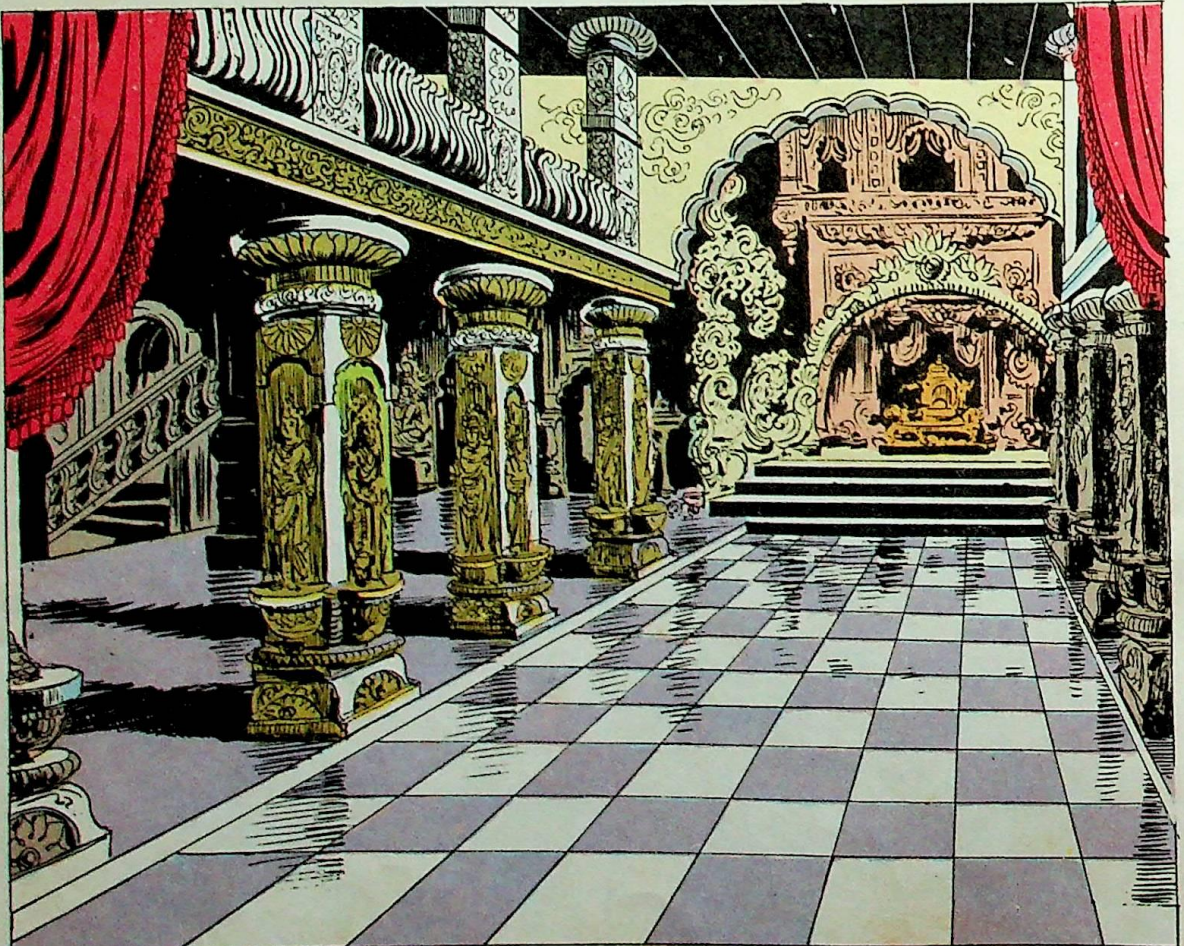
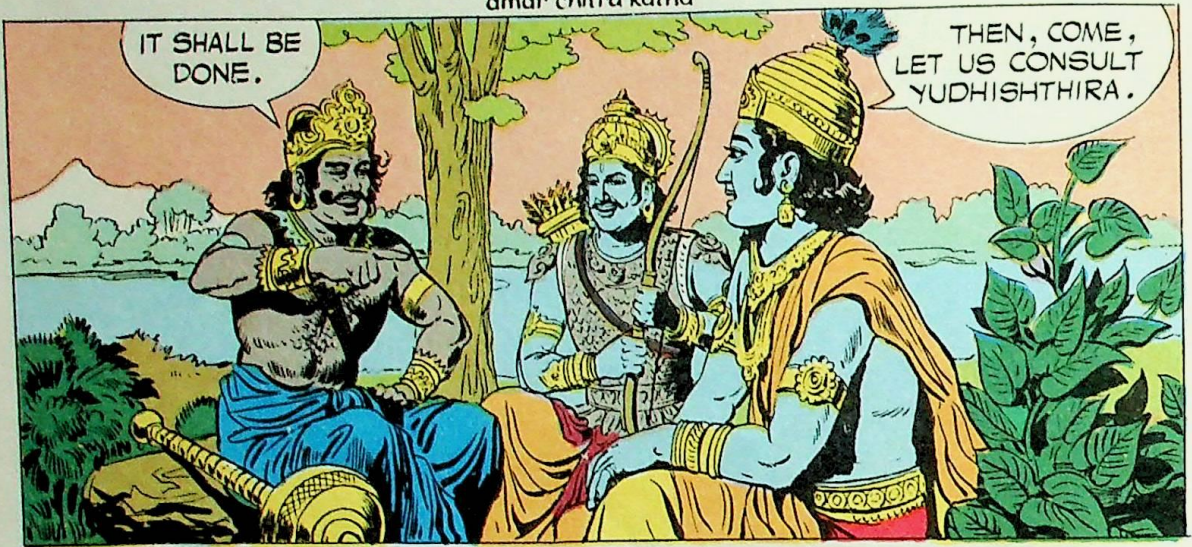


MAYA, YOU ARE THE GREAT
ARCHITECT OF THE ASURAS.
WHY DON'T YOU BUILD A
SABHA* FOR YUDHISHTHIRA?
BUILD ONE THAT WILL
BE UNSURPASSED
IN SPLENDOUR.



* HALL

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AND THAT WAS HOW YUDHISHTHIRA ACQUIRED THE MAGNIFICENT HALL THAT BECAME THE LAST STRAW FOR HIS ALREADY ENVIOUS COUSINS, THE KAURAVAS, AND INDUCED THEM TO DECEITFULLY DEPRIVE YUDHISHTHIRA OF HIS KINGDOM.

ARJUNA HUMBLLED

AH! KRISHNA,
NOW THAT THE GANDIVA
BOW IS MINE, NO ONE
CAN DEFEAT ME. EVEN
INDRA WAS HELPLESS
AGAINST MY ARROWS!

ARJUNA, THE PANDAVA, HAD COME TO VISIT KRISHNA AT DWARKA.

SUDDENLY, THEY HEARD A LOUD CRY.

WHAT'S
THAT
SOUND?

SEEING A BRAHMAN OUTSIDE, THEY
WENT TO HIM —

WHAT IS TROUB-
LING YOU,
FRIEND?

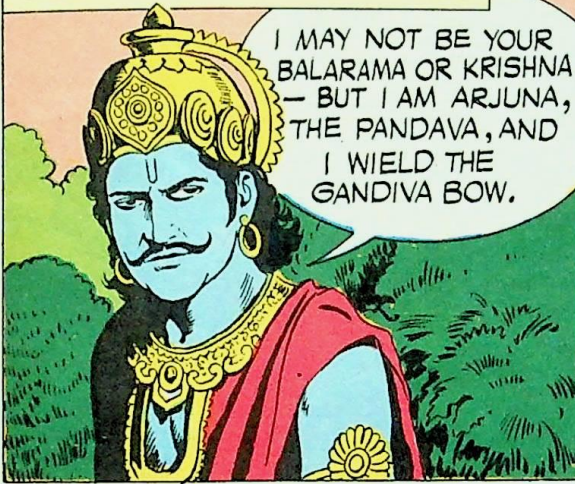
EIGHT TIMES HAVE
I APPEALED TO OUR
KING TO SAVE MY
DEAD SONS AND EIGHT
TIMES HAS HE IGNORED
ME! NOW I HAVE LOST MY
NINTH SON!

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TALES OF ARJUNA

ARJUNA'S VANITY WAS STUNG.



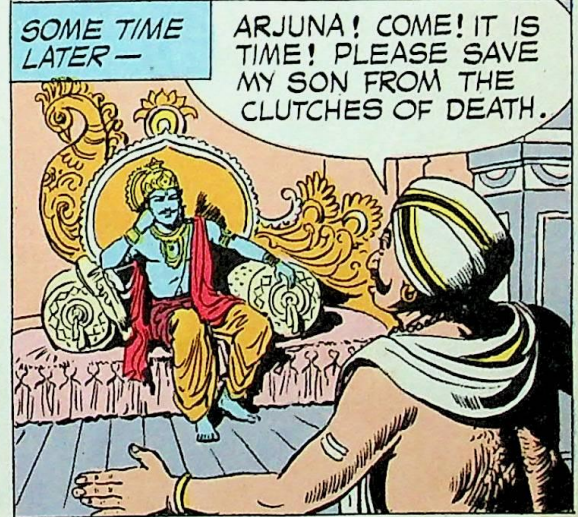
I MAY NOT BE YOUR
BALARAMA OR KRISHNA
— BUT I AM ARJUNA,
THE PANDAVA, AND
I WIELD THE
GANDIVA BOW.



I WILL SAVE
YOUR SON FOR YOU.
I WILL DEFEAT EVEN
YAMA, THE GOD OF
DEATH, IF NECESSARY.

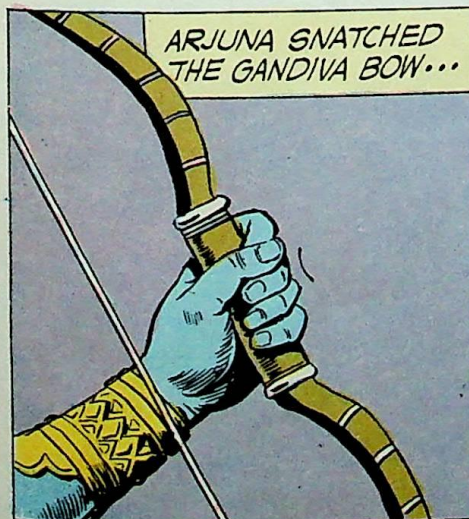


NOW GO HOME AND LET ME
KNOW WHEN YOUR WIFE IS
ABOUT TO DELIVER HER
TENTH CHILD. I WILL
WAIT IN DWARKA
TILL THEN.

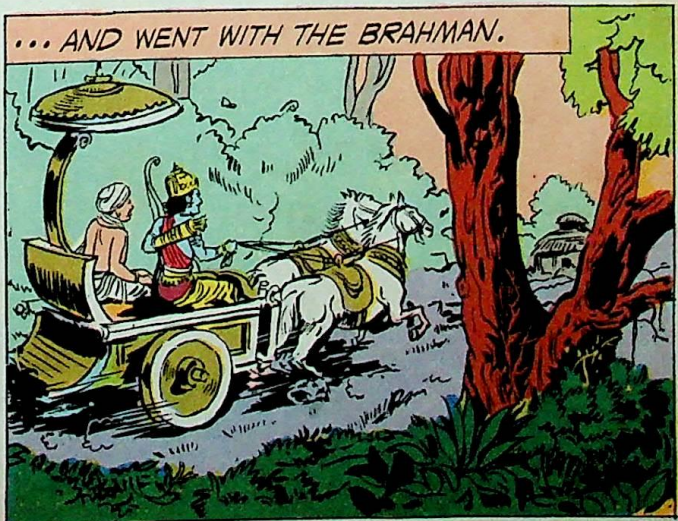


SOME TIME
LATER —

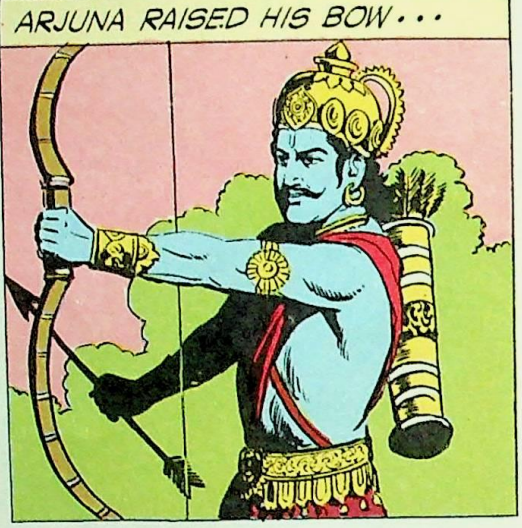
ARJUNA! COME! IT IS
TIME! PLEASE SAVE
MY SON FROM THE
CLUTCHES OF DEATH.



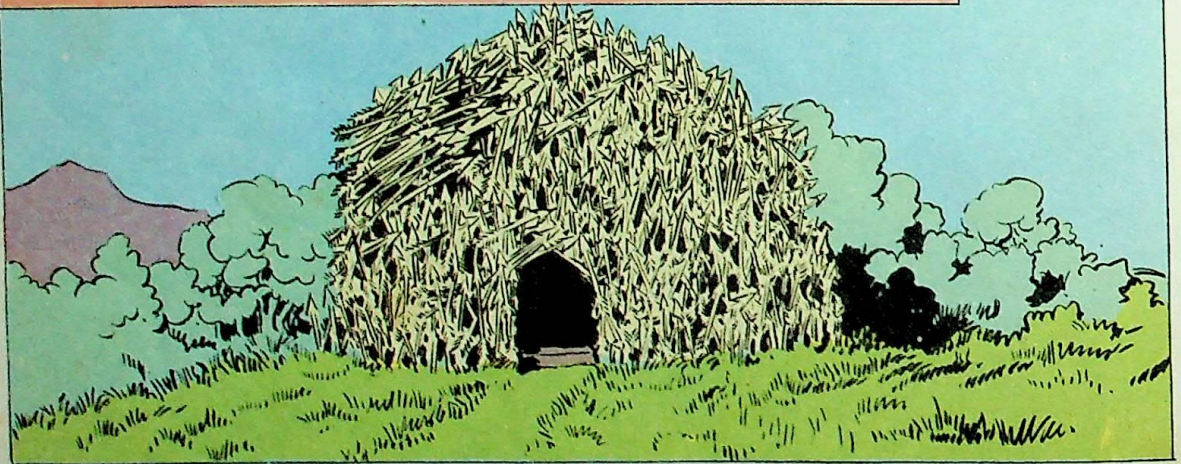
ARJUNA SNATCHED
THE GANDIVA BOW...



... AND WENT WITH THE BRAHMAN.



... AND COVERED THE HUT WITH A THICK NETWORK OF ARROWS.



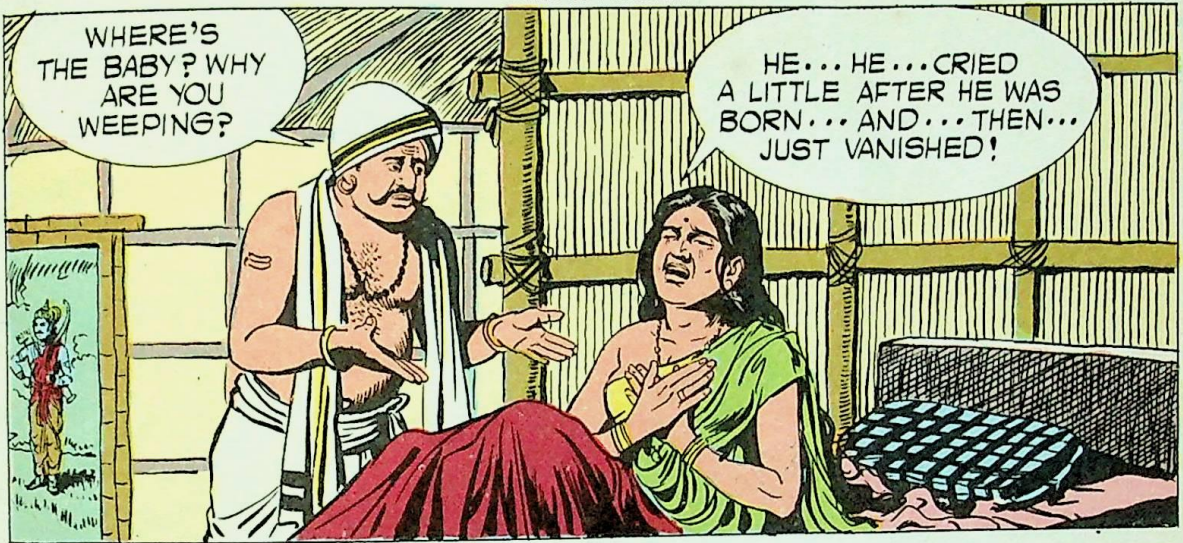
THEN HE STOOD GUARD OUTSIDE.



SUDDENLY—



TALES OF ARJUNA



THE BRAHMAN RUSHED OUT OF THE HUT LIKE ONE POSSESSED.



MOUNTING HIS CHARIOT, ARJUNA SEARCHED HIGH...

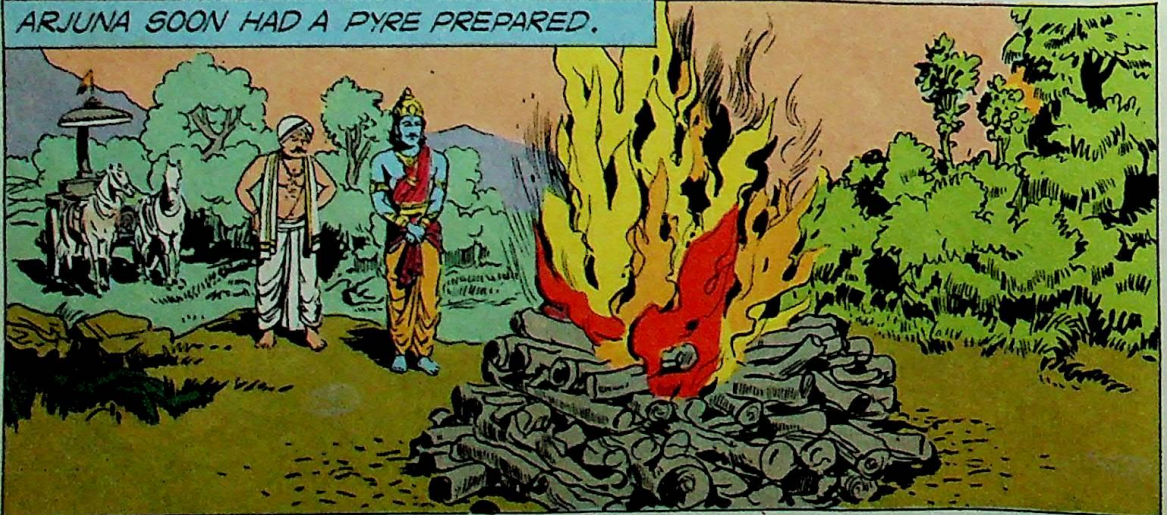


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... AND LOW. BUT NOWHERE COULD HE FIND THE BRAHMAN'S SON.



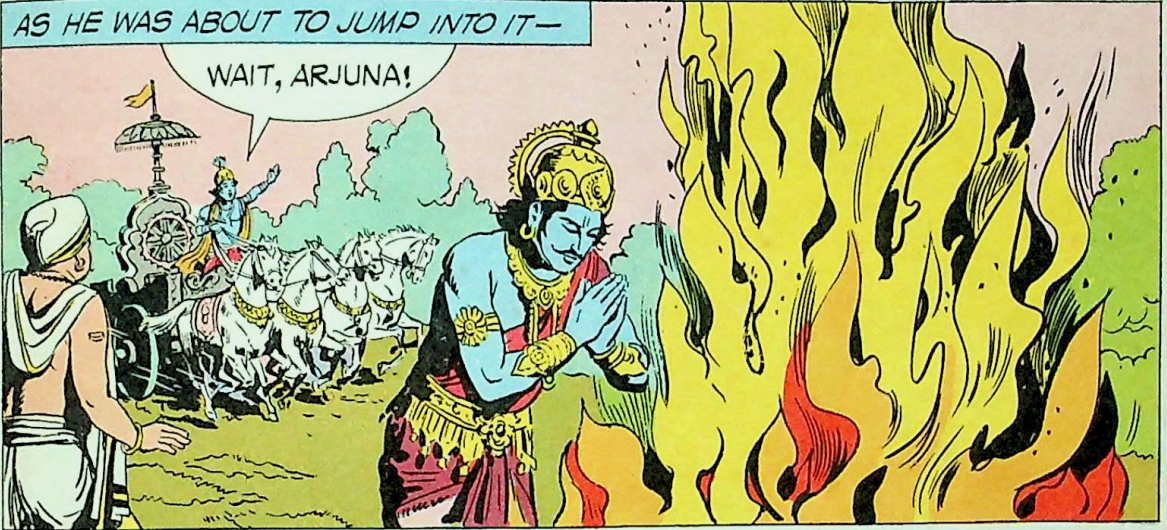
ARJUNA SOON HAD A PYRE PREPARED.



TALES OF ARJUNA

AS HE WAS ABOUT TO JUMP INTO IT—

WAIT, ARJUNA!

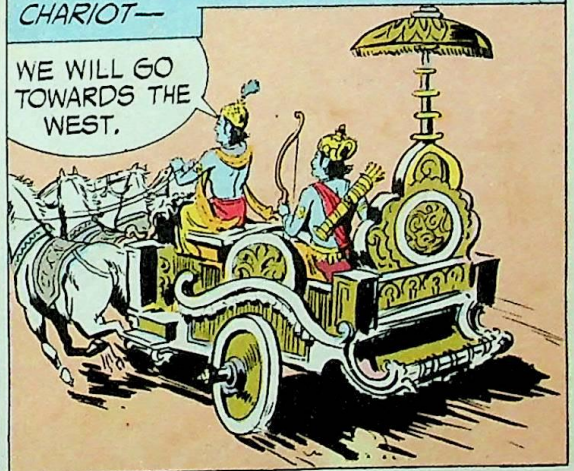


DO NOT PUNISH YOURSELF.
I WILL SHOW YOU WHERE
THE BRAHMAN'S SONS
ARE. COME WITH
ME.



THE BEMUSED ARJUNA GOT INTO THE
CHARIOT—

WE WILL GO
TOWARDS THE
WEST.



THEY DROVE ON TILL THEY CAME TO THE REGIONS OF THE NIGHT.

OH! I CAN'T SEE A
THING! ARE YOU THERE KRISHNA?
HAS THE CHARIOT STOPPED?

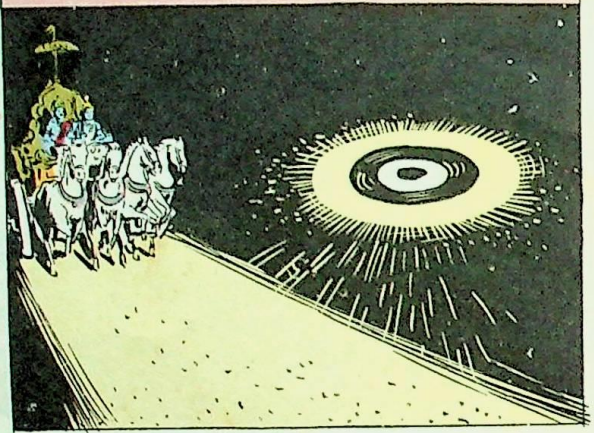
THE HORSES
HAVE STOPPED BECAUSE
OF THE BLINDING
DARKNESS.

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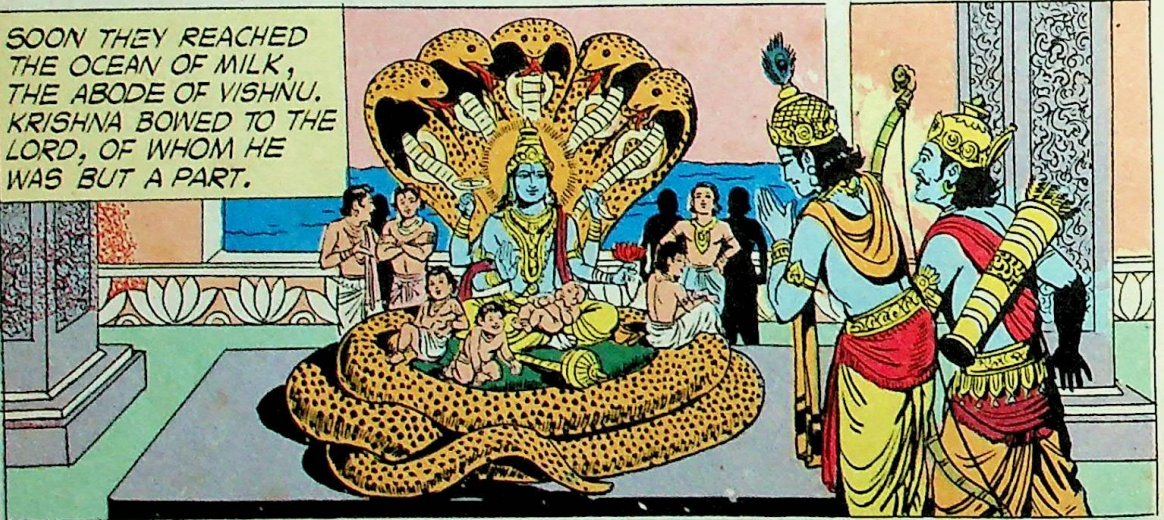
KRISHNA RAISED HIS DISCUS —



KRISHNA'S DISCUS WHIRLED ON AHEAD
CUTTING WITH ITS OWN LUSTRE A
BRIGHT PATH THROUGH THE DARKNESS.



SOON THEY REACHED
THE OCEAN OF MILK,
THE ABODE OF VISHNU.
KRISHNA BOWED TO THE
LORD, OF WHOM HE
WAS BUT A PART.



ARJUNA STOOD DAZED FOR A MOMENT.
THEN HE, TOO, BOWED IN REVERENCE.



TALES OF ARJUNA

AH! KRISHNA, YOU KNEW
ALL ALONG THAT THEY WERE
HERE! NO WONDER YOU
WERE SILENT AND
UNMOVED.



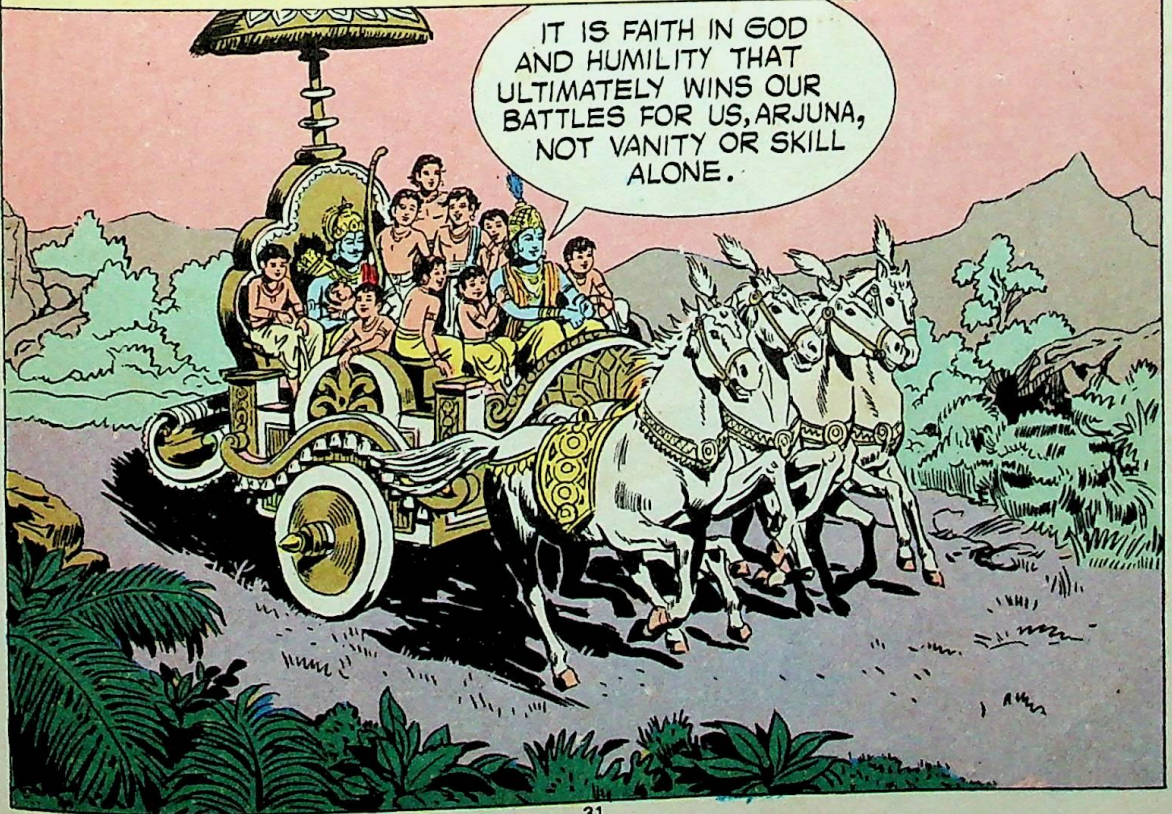
AND THEN ARJUNA REALISED WHY
THIS WHOLE DRAMA HAD BEEN PLAYED.

O KRISHNA, I NOW UNDERSTAND.
WHATEVER MANLINESS AND
POWERS A MAN MAY HAVE, IT IS
ALL THROUGH THE GRACE OF GOD.
FORGIVE ME MY VANITY.



TAKING THEIR LEAVE OF VISHNU, KRISHNA AND ARJUNA PUT THE TEN SONS
OF THE BRAHMAN IN THE CHARIOT AND LEFT FOR DWARAKA.

IT IS FAITH IN GOD
AND HUMILITY THAT
ULTIMATELY WINS OUR
BATTLES FOR US, ARJUNA,
NOT VANITY OR SKILL
ALONE.



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As part of its reaching out programme, Amar Chitra Katha has joined hands with The Indian Express, India's leading daily, to bring you fun contests.

Quiz Contest, on Indian mythology and history, on May 24 at Patkar Hall, New Marine Lines. For Contest form and details, look up The Indian Express, Mumbai, of 10th & 17th May '97.

- Participation limited to first 500 on a first-cum-first-served basis.

PRELIMINARIES

- Book-reading week, along with mono-acting and colouring contests at the following centres from May 16 to May 31 :
(Exact dates, timing and further details to be checked from the venues)

– The following venues are open to all children :-

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. 'Jalada', R.B.I. Officers' Quarters, Prabhadevi. | 5. Kendriya Vidyalaya, I.I.T. Powai. | 11. Girdhar Park, Mith Chowki, Malad (W). |
| 2. Shri Bansidhar Aggarwal Model School, 270 & 271, Nr. Wadala Market, Wadala (E). | 6. Kendriya Vidyalaya, 1, Navy Nagar, Colaba. | 12. Mangal Kalini, Siddharth Nagar, Goregaon (W). |
| 3. National Society for Clear Cities – India, Children's Complex, 590, Ali Yavar Jung Marg, Bandra (E). | 7. Venus Apartments, Worli Sea face. | 13. Haridwar, Evershine Nagar, Malad (W). |
| 4. Bal Bhavan, Charni Road. | 8. Swami Vivekanand High School, Sindhi Society, Chembur. | 14. Amit Apartments, 3rd Dadabhai Cross Road, Vile Parle (W). |
| | 9. Jamuna Darshan, Bangur Nagar, Goregaon (W). | 15. Kalina Education Society's School, Kalina, Santacruz (E). |
| | 10. Shree Shivdham, New Link Road, Malad (W). | |

– The following venues are open only to their members/students :-

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Borivall Medical Brotherhood, Borivall (W). | 3. Glaxo India Ltd, Thane & Worli. | 5. Avillion Greenfields Co-op. Hsg Soc. Ltd, Andheri (E). |
| 2. O.N.G.C. Colony, Gokuldhama-I. | 4. Atomic Energy School No. 2, Anushaktinagar. | 6. S.I.E.S. High School, Matunga. |

FINALS

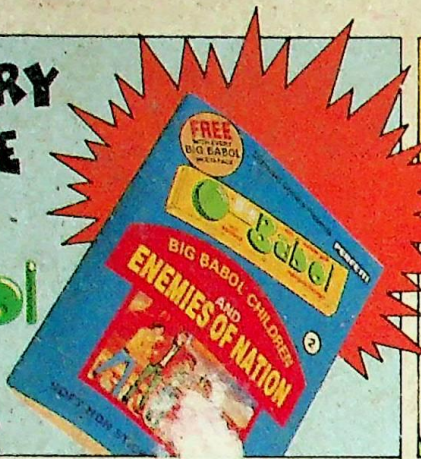
- Mono-Acting and Colouring Contest – 31st May, 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m., followed by a Sky Show at Nehru Planetarium, Worli.

For children in the age group
8-11 years (Juniors) and
12-15 years (seniors).

 **The Indian EXPRESS**
TELL IT LIKE IT IS



MYSTERY OF THE Big Babol COMIC



Puja went to buy a Big Babol stick pack with Rs. 6/-. She came back with a Big Babol stick pack and a comic. How? Bubbloo, Softy, Gummy, Bubbli and Biggo set out to solve the mystery.

Puja is narrating a story to Bubbli

I was reading a very exciting comic yesterday. It's a story about four brave children and their dog...

Will you lend it to me?

It's very special.

It's not for sale.

Where did you buy it?

Bubbli talking to her gang.

Puja has a very nice comic. But she won't tell us where she got it from.

Just then Puja arrives.

Bubbloo will you lend me Rs. 6/-? I want to buy Big Babol.

Here you are.

Let's follow her.

Don't be silly. She's only going to buy Big Babol.

Okay, let's also have Big Babol.

Look! She's got a comic with a Big Babol stick pack.

At the shop

Sir, that girl paid you only for Big Babol. But she also took a comic.

You can too! Now you get a Big Babol comic **FREE**, with every Big Babol stick pack. Hurry! There is a series of comics, but till stocks last.

Give us 5 Big Babol stick packs and five comics.

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